

2022 ECONOMIC REPORT SOUTHEAST REGION



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Southeast Region is comprised of 13 counties in the southeast portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Caruthersville, and Park Hills.

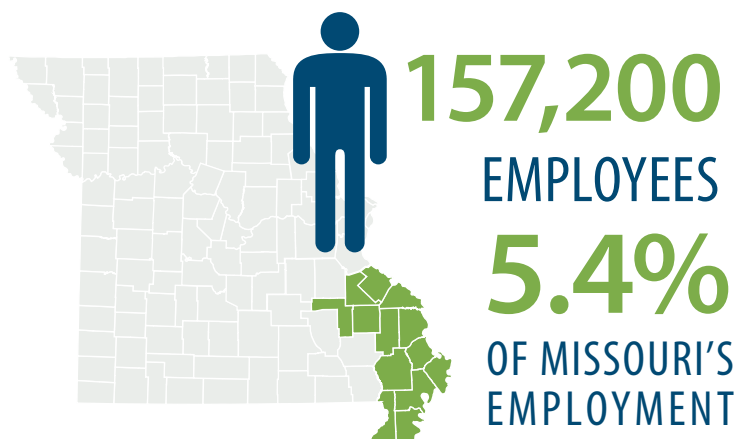
The Southeast Region workforce has more than 157,200 employees, making up 5.4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2021, 50.3 percent of the workforce was female and 49.7 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 49 percent female and 51 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2021 was 4.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southeast Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2021, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 11.4 percent of the workforce was non-white and 2.6 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 17.6 percent non-white and 4.5 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Southeast Region, 3.4 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 6.9 percent and the U.S. was at 23.1 percent.

The Southeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southeast Region, 17.5 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.2 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.



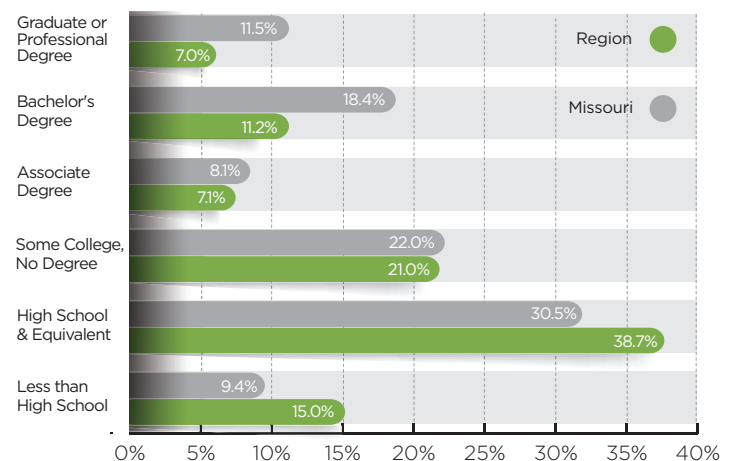
Workforce Demographics

	SE Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2021	157,277	2,928,368	152,580,667
Average Unemployment Rate in 2021	4.4%	4.4%	5.3%
Male	49.7%	51.0%	50.3%
Female	50.3%	49.0%	49.7%
Non-White	11.4%	17.6%	23.7%
Hispanic or Latino	2.6%	4.5%	16.7%
Ages 55 or Older	23.6%	23.0%	23.0%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	17.5%	12.2%	10.3%
Below Poverty Level (Ages 18-64)	17.7%	12.6%	12.1%
Language other than English	3.4%	6.9%	23.1%
Education Associate Degree or Higher	25.3%	38.0%	41.6%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2020-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2021

Educational attainment rates for the Southeast Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-five percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 38 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation.

Educational Attainment



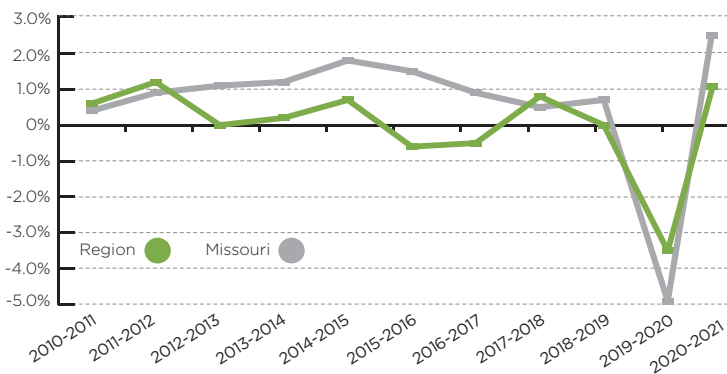
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2020 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

SOUTHEAST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Region averaged over 136,100 jobs in 2021. The region gained 1,446 jobs, an increase of 1.1 percent, from 2020 to 2021, whereas the region lost over 4,900 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.5 percent employment decline due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent, however Missouri employment increased by 2.5 percent in 2021, showing recovery from the pandemic impacts. From 2017 to 2021, the Southeast Region averaged a decrease of 0.4 percent annually for an overall decrease of 1.7 percent. During that same period Missouri's employment lost 1.4 percent.

Southeast Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employing industry in the region, even though it lost 1,377 in employment in 2021 when compared to 2017. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry, followed by *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services*.

Most of the industry sectors in the Southeast Region lost employment between 2017 and 2021, except *Manufacturing*; *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Finance and Insurance*; and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*.

Southeast Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		2017-2021		2020 Annual Wages
	2017	2021	Net Change	Empl. CAGR	
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,478	30,101	-1,377	-1.1%	\$39,000
Manufacturing	17,144	17,668	524	0.8%	\$52,452
Retail Trade	16,585	16,538	-47	-0.1%	\$30,792
Accommodation & Food Services	10,641	11,013	372	0.9%	\$17,748
Educational Services	11,048	10,129	-919	-2.1%	\$38,280
Construction	6,722	6,514	-208	-0.8%	\$52,152
Public Administration	6,839	5,803	-1,036	-4.0%	\$36,048
Wholesale Trade	6,160	5,748	-412	-1.7%	\$56,652
Transportation & Warehousing	5,624	5,117	-507	-2.3%	\$50,064
Administrative Support & Waste	4,943	4,606	-337	-1.7%	\$38,820
Finance & Insurance	3,745	4,081	336	2.2%	\$62,304
Professional, Science, & Tech. Servs.	2,992	3,604	612	4.8%	\$61,116

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2017-2021 ANNUAL AVERAGES

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Southeast Region has higher concentrations in *Gas Stations*; *Crop Production*; *Wood Product Manufacturing*; *Truck Transportation*; *Social Assistance*; *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*, and *Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing*.

HIGHEST 2021
LQ 3.0
GASOLINE STATIONS

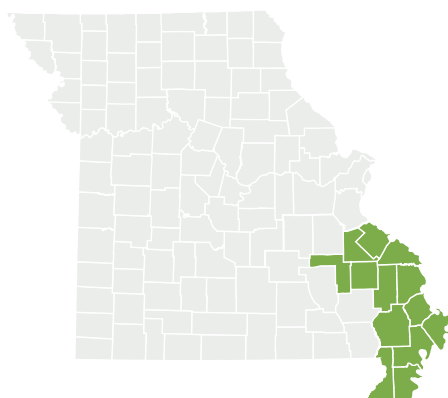
2021 Southeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations	2,572	3.0
Crop Production	1,432	2.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	884	2.3
Truck Transportation	3,010	2.2
Social Assistance	6,951	1.9
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	5,161	1.9
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	660	1.8
Support Activities for Agriculture & Forestry	547	1.6
Mining (except Oil & Gas)	237	1.5
Health & Personal Care Stores	1,369	1.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,401	1.3
General Merchandise Stores	3,748	1.3
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,693	1.3
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	866	1.2
Telecommunications	670	1.1

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

SOUTHEAST REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Southeast Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; *Crop Production*; *Ambulatory Health Care Services*; *Merchant Wholesalers*; and *Couriers and Messengers* industries.



Southeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	2020-2030 Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	3,163	3,700	537	17.0%
Crop Production	3,978	4,351	373	9.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	7,065	7,376	311	4.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	3,035	3,264	229	7.6%
Couriers & Messengers	549	765	216	39.3%
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	876	1,054	178	20.3%
Real Estate	939	1,076	137	14.6%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	6,022	6,144	122	2.0%
Truck Transportation	2,928	3,037	109	3.7%
Repair & Maintenance	1,128	1,220	92	8.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

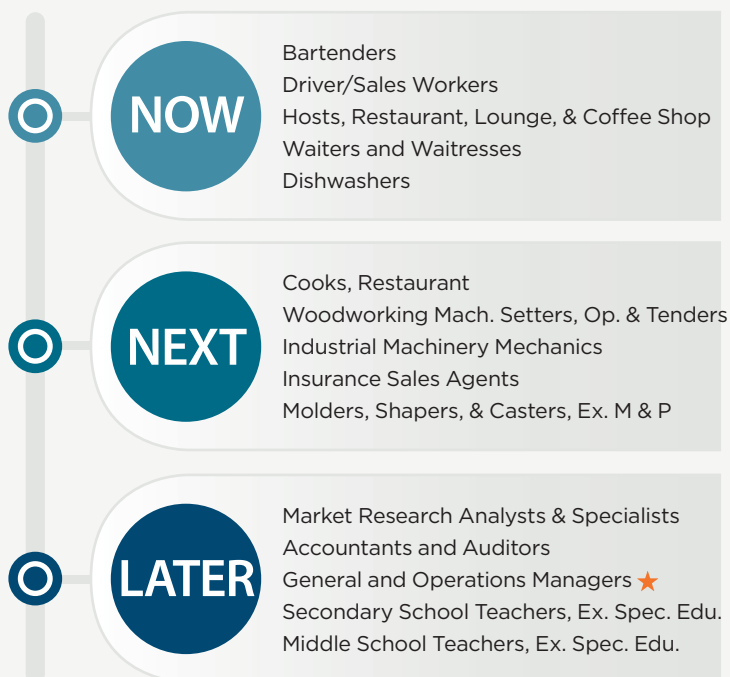
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term, on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; *Cashiers*; and *Fast Food and Counter Workers*. *Bartenders*; *Driver/Sales Workers*; and *Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate to long-term training. *Nursing Assistants*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Cooks* are projected to have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Cooks*; *Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders*; and *Industrial Machinery Mechanics* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *General and Operations Managers*; *Registered Nurses*; and *Accountants and Auditors* are projected to have the most openings. *Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists*; *Accountants and Auditors*; and *General and Operations Managers* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Southeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2021-2022 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

SOUTHEAST REGION

Southeast Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages	
NOW								
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	8,476	9,191	72	566	500	1,138	\$22,976	★
Cashiers	4,201	3,961	-24	347	391	714	\$21,551	★
Fast Food & Counter Workers	3,101	3,392	29	315	343	687	\$20,630	★
Retail Salespersons	3,923	3,944	2	220	325	547	\$23,300	★
Stockers & Order Fillers	2,484	2,646	16	146	250	412	\$24,093	★
NEXT								
Nursing Assistants	3,514	3,475	-4	224	198	418	\$25,330	★
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,132	3,305	17	132	218	367	\$51,603	★
Cooks, Restaurant	1,299	1,858	56	93	135	284	\$22,035	
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,561	1,611	5	56	92	153	\$35,745	★
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	1,393	1,308	-8	79	69	140	\$33,625	
LATER								
General & Operations Managers	2,648	2,804	16	54	169	239	\$63,644	★
Registered Nurses	3,486	3,441	-4	92	87	175	\$58,178	★
Accountants & Auditors	1,326	1,426	10	38	82	130	\$51,484	
Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. & Tech. Edu.	1,623	1,633	1	43	66	110	\$43,878	
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	523	634	11	14	42	67	\$43,746	

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2021-2022 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Southeast Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

Southeast Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
NOW	
Retail Salespersons	437
Fast Food & Counter Workers	336
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	288
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	228
Customer Service Representatives	201
NEXT	
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	457
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	391
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	296
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	232
Food Service Managers	198
LATER	
Registered Nurses	512
Personal Service Managers, All Other; Entertainment & Recreation Managers, Except Gambling; & Managers, All Other	149
Medical & Health Services Managers	144
General & Operations Managers	120
Postsecondary Teachers	110

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™ (FORMERLY EMSI BURNING GLASS TECHNOLOGIES), ONLINE JOB ADS FROM JUNE 1, 2021 TO MAY 31, 2022

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.